votes and Gadiane 98 votes. In 1911 Felipe Tayko was elected the fourth governor of Negros Oriental. 175*

Political differences between the supporters of Gadiane and the Taykos were temporarily resolved in 1914. The Taykos joined the Nacionalista party in order to defeat the candidates of the opposition party in Siaton. In this election Santiago Tayko was elected presidente of the municipality; the office's salary was thirty-three dollars a month. 662 175*

In 1916 Felipe Tayko reached the peak of his political career when he was elected congressman from the first district of Negros. He bolted the Nacionalista party to join the Liberal party allegedly because he was promised by Liberal party leaders their nomination for representative. Gadiane writes about schism with bitterness:

> Because I was the head of the Nacionalista party I told our members that though our happiness that the two parties were united was short-lived, we will just forget Tayko's withdrawal because there are people today who do not care if their honor is marred as long as their stomachs are full. Oh, what a situation! But gone forever are the days of the Prophets who guided men so they would not make mistakes.

The same year that Tayko was elected representative Siaton was classified as a third class municipality, based on its income. Thirty-five years later Siaton was still a third class municipality. 175*

The first concrete school building in Siaton was built in 1918. Behind its erection lies the 175* 653 661

smouldering feud between the Tayko and Gadiane groups. 1757
*Presidente* Santiago Tayko was given permission to be ab- 653
sent from his position for four months in order to attend 661
to personal business. During this period the municipal council, under the probing eye of Councilor Gadiane, discovered that $5,000 had been set aside in the municipal treasury for the construction of the school. The *municipio* had burned and Felipe's father's house had been rented for eighty-five dollars a month to furnish space for the *presidente*, justice of the peace, treasurer, chief of police, classrooms, and the jail. The funds set aside for the school building had been used to pay the rent; the original amount set aside for the school building had dwindled to less than $2,000.

The municipal council passed a resolution requesting Congressman Tayko to obtain funds from the national government to build a new school. Gadiane later received a letter from Tayko, stating he had received the resolution and requesting Gadiane to stop making trouble. Several months after this incident Tayko returned to Siaton for the municipal elections. His nephew, Fidel Tayko, was a candidate for *presidente* of the municipality. Just before the election lumber arrived in the *poblacion* for the new school. Fidel won the election.

On the fifth day of the fifth month at five o'clock 1757
in the evening, 1925, a severe earthquake shook Siaton. 731
The *Flores de Mayo* procession was just leaving the church when a series of violent shocks occurred. Thick smoke

175*
666

In 1927 Nacionalista Gadiane ran against the brother of Fidel Tayko, a member of the Liberal party. Gadiane gives a brief description of some aspects of his campaign.

> I ordered from Silliman University 4000 pieces of propaganda [printed pamphlets]. I sent to my leaders (in the barrios) 2000 pamphlets. I gave some of the people in the marketplace and at the komberas [feasts] and kaliwasans [funeral memorial services] I attended. We also distributed our propaganda in front of the church after mass.

The election was dishonest. When they arrived at the polls many voters were told that the election was over. So they went home without voting. The ballot boxes were also said to be stuffed. The Nacionalista group sent a telegram to the Governor-General in Manila and an American colonel soon appeared in Siaton to investigate the election irregularities.

On the advice of the colonel the election complaint was carried to Dumaguete. Similar complaints had been lodged with the provincial government by Nacionalista groups in Bais, Bacong, and Siquijor. The Nacionalista party spent ₱3,000 for the fees of their lawyers and Gadiane spent ₱800 personally. The Liberal party was said to have spent even more money to win the case. As a result several of the poll inspectors in Siaton were found guilty and imprisoned.

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[368]

In 1928 Bautista Tayko was elected presidente and four years later his brother, Fidel, was re-elected to the same office. It was during Fidel's office that semi-permanent school buildings were constructed at Barrios Imalad, Bonbonon, Giliga-on and Bonawon.

Inalad, Bonbonon, Giliga-on and Bonawon. A new concrete bridge was built over the Canaway River; this improved the transportation facilities during the rainy season. 175* 653 ● 494

In 1935 the Philippine Commonwealth was established. No elections were held this year for municipal officers; their terms were merely extended for an additional two years.[165] During this period the water system of Siaton was installed. The national, provincial, and municipal governments each contributed $5,000 for the construction of the new water system. A concrete reservoir was built at Sitio Talio, west of Naga, and the water brought to the poblacion by gravity. The water was piped only to the residences of the more prominent people of the poblacion. Public faucets were also installed at the plaza and a few other places. The system is inadequate for during the dry season the pressure becomes so low that the water runs only for short periods during the day. 175* 653 365 565

In October 1937 clouds of locusts came to Siaton. The insects covered the plaza and climbed into the church, houses, and stores. Nearly all of the unharvested rice was destroyed. In the same year Fidel Tayko was re-elected as Siaton's mayor, the new name substituted for presidente. His defeated opponent protested the election as fraudulent and won his case in Dumaguete. The victor became mayor 175* 731 175* 666

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165"The first elections under the Commonwealth were held December, 14, 1938, for local offices." Tolentino and Zaide, op. cit., p. 151.

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During the harvest the guerrillas went as far back as the mountains to get their share of the crops. I was one who carried their share to the barrio lieutenant's house where the food was stored. Whenever the guerrillas went to the fields to divide the crops we could not say no even though we had other work to do. We had to obey them. At night we thought we would not live until the next morning--with danger from the guerrillas and the Japanese. During this time, if we had no corn, the guerrillas told us to give them anything we had--like igao [an edible wild root] or bananas. Sometimes I was told to go to their camp to help them pound igac roots. Sometimes I did not want to go but I had to go. We continued to plow and our crops were divided by the guerrillas.

The Japanese in Siaton moved to Tolong during the last part of the war. They stayed here for about a month and then returned to Siaton. One night, after burning the municipio and the dispensary, they left on a ship which had anchored offshore.

American forces invaded Negros March 29, 1945, having landed on Cebu two days earlier. Troops stationed in Siaton camped on a small knoll about a mile from the poblacion. They did not stay very long and evidently did not make much of an impact on the Filipinos. The American soldiers were rarely discussed by the people, although several dances were given in their honor in poblacion plaza.

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With the liberation of Negros, Fidel Tayko was appointed mayor by the national government and re-elected in 1948. In 1946 the elementary school in the poblacion was rebuilt with a grant from the United States-Philippine War Damage Commission.[172] A bamboo and nipa municipio was

[172] The United States-Philippine War Damage Commission was created by the Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946 with $120,000,000 for repairing or rebuilding roads, bridges, schools and other public installations.

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constructed on the plaza to replace the building burnt by the Japanese. In 1948 a new concrete bridge was built (the pride of all the residents of the poblacion) over the Siaton River and a similar bridge over the Canaway River was finished in 1952. The Catholic church also was rebuilt in the same year. The former structure had been a temporary one since the 1925 earthquake. The fine two-story houses with ornate cement stairways that had been residences of the more affluent principalia and were burnt during the war have not been rebuilt. In parts of the poblacion one can see lonely cement stairways in weed-covered lots, leading upward to a house which no longer exists.

[362]

Summary

174

This historical survey of Caticugan and its larger milieu supports Kroeber's comments on stratificational aspects of Philippine culture.

> Layer after layer of culture is recognizable [in the Philippines], giving a complete transition from the most primitive condition to full participation in Western civilization...In the Philippines it is true that direct historical records...go back only four hundred years. But a constellation of circumstances has brought it about that the various ancient and modern influences that have reached the islands are often traceable to their sources...the contours